

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act of 2000, also known as Proposition 36, amended existing drug sentencing laws to require criminal defendants who are convicted of a non-violent drug offense to be placed in drug treatment as a condition of probation, instead of incarceration. Drug treatment is also required for State parolees convicted of a non-violent drug related violation of parole. To cover local costs for treatment programs and other necessary services, Proposition 36 appropriates statewide funding of \$120 million per year through Fiscal Year (FY) 2005-06, with an initial FY 2000-01 appropriation of \$60 million for planning and implementation. Los Angeles County received approximately \$30 million for FY 2002-03 and anticipates similar funding for subsequent fiscal years through FY 2005-06. Statewide implementation of Proposition 36 began on July 1, 2001.

Los Angeles County utilized a coordinated, collaborative approach in implementing Proposition 36, involving the Court, District Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, Probation Department, Department of Health Services Alcohol and Drug Program Administration (ADPA), California Department of Corrections/Parole (Parole), and community-based treatment providers. The Board of Supervisors designated the Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee Proposition 36 Implementation Task Force as the advisory group responsible for the development of policies and procedures for the implementation of Proposition 36, and the ADPA as the lead agency for Los Angeles County's Proposition 36 responsibilities.

The second year of Proposition 36 implementation was both exciting and challenging for all stakeholders in Los Angeles County. As anticipated, Proposition 36 programs experienced tremendous growth in terms of participant/case numbers, as well as participation rates. Program expansion was evident in every aspect -- from the Court, to Probation, Parole, and the treatment providers. Collaboration, no longer a cliché, has become part of the Proposition 36 daily regimen.

For FY 2002-03, a total of 9,836 new defendants were convicted and sentenced by the Court or were ordered by Parole to participate in Proposition 36. Of the 9,836 defendants, the Community Assessment Services Centers (CASCs) provided assessment and treatment referral services to 8,048 participants. However, it should be noted that the CASCs actually had 26,869 contacts with Proposition 36 participants during this period because many participants returned to the CASCs approximately 2-3 times during their treatment. Of those new participants assessed by CASCs, 6,379 participants reported to a community-based treatment provider as instructed. Including those participants in treatment at the start of the fiscal year, 10,979 participants received treatment during this time, a 115% increase from the first year. At any given time, approximately 5,000 participants were receiving treatment services in Los Angeles County.

The proportion of Proposition 36 male to female participants (79 percent to 21 percent) is reflective of the criminal justice population. At 40 percent, Hispanic/Latino remained the largest participant group and methamphetamine was still the primary drug of choice. The geographical breakdown for participants from each Service Planning Area (SPA) was similar to last year. In addition to providing quality services to the largest number of Proposition 36 participants in the State of California, Los Angeles County continued its efforts by:

- Expanding services by adding new programs and making funding adjustments to existing programs according to utilization trends

- Continuing Regional Coordinating Council meetings to enhance community involvement and ongoing communication and collaboration with the Proposition 36 stakeholders
- Maintaining the Proposition 36 Helpline to assist all involved Proposition 36 agencies and participants
- Participating in Community Assessment Services Center Directors Meetings
- Educating the public on Proposition 36 and its implementation/operations
- Maintaining the ADPA Proposition 36 Website
- Enhancing the Treatment Courts and Probation eXchange (TCPX) system for data collection and program evaluation

The goals for the coming years are to provide the highest quality of services to Proposition 36 participants, improve participant reporting from Court to assessment to treatment, and work on ensuring long-term funding for services after FY 2005-06.